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BRITISH DRIVE FAILS, BERLIN CLAIMS; LONDON REPORTS GAINS AT THIRD LINE

6,000 PRUDENTIAL AGENTS GO ON STRIKE; THOUSANDS OF POLICIES DECLARED IN PERIL

Lack of Premium Collectors, Men Say, Will Result in Many Cancellations. 7,000 MORE TO GO OUT. Company Asserts Provision Has Been Made to Protect Policy Holders.

Six thousand agents and collectors for the Prudential Insurance Company went on strike this noon, creating what they claim is a threatening situation for policyholders in that company whose policies expire in the near future.

The lack of sufficient collectors to see that premiums are turned in at the proper time will result, the strikers say, in the cancellation of thousands of policies. The company, anticipating the strike, has announced that all policyholders will be taken care of and the strikers replaced by experienced men.

The strike followed the company's dismissal of thirty or forty employees who formed the Insurance Agents' International Protective Association, Mary Lumpkin, No. 1708 Amsterdam Avenue, acted as Chairman of the association at its meeting this noon in Bryant Hall, Sixth Avenue and Forty-first Street, where the strike vote was taken.

7,000 MORE ARE EXPECTED TO GO OUT. The strike vote affects collectors and agents in Greater New York, Philadelphia and towns in New Jersey and Southern Pennsylvania. It is expected that the ranks of the strikers will be swelled to 13,000 by to-morrow morning, when other agents and collectors in Connecticut, Massachusetts and Upper New York State will join the walkout. These additional employees are said to have pledged their support of the strike at a meeting held last Thursday.

The Prudential has cut the salaries of its agents and collectors in the Northern District nine times in the last five years, said Chairman Lumpkin to-day. "In three years salaries have been cut thirty per cent. To show you the seriousness of the situation it is only necessary to call attention to the time clause in the Prudential insurance policies. If this strike is not settled within a week thousands of policies which should be renewed in that time will be cancelled because there will be no collectors to see that the renewals are taken care of. Naturally that will be greatly to the profit of the company.

LOBE RIGHT TO FUTURE COMMISSIONS. "Another way in which the company will profit by the strike is through the clause in the agents' and collectors' contracts whereby, once they sever their connection with the company, they lose their right to all future commissions. They will get what is due them on business already written, but not on those future renewals in which they would have an interest if they remained with the company.

"We tried to arbitrate this matter with officials of the Prudential in (Continued on Second Page.)

ANOTHER ESCAPE FROM SING SING; HOTEL THIEF GONE

Robberies Totalling \$58,000 Charged to Convict Missed at Noon.

The escape of Ernest Le Ford, master hotel thief, from Sing Sing prison, where he has been serving a five year sentence since early in 1915, was reported to the New York police by the prison authorities to-day. He was missed at noon. No details of the escape were supplied.

Le Ford, who has been known to the police as Smith, Matey, Holtens, and Ernest J. Shandean, is thirty-three years old, and though very heavily built, a man of good looks and engaging manners. He once was a chauffeur for Frederick W. Vanderbilt. Detective Sgt. Maddox chased Le Ford all over the United States after the rooms of Dr. Albert J. Goodman of the United States Army at the Manhattan Square Hotel had been robbed of \$5,000 in jewelry. Robberies amounting to more than \$50,000 at the Imperial, Empire and Hargrave Hotels also were charged to the man. At the time of the robbery of Dr. Goodman, Le Ford was paying court to a young woman living in this city who knew nothing of his criminal life. When she learned he was deceiving her she gave the police the information which led to his arrest and conviction. He swore to revenge himself on her as soon as he was out of prison, and for that reason the authorities thought he might make his way to New York from Sing Sing.

KAISER WOULD LIKE TO FIGHT IN TRENCHES

Tells Wounded Soldiers His Life Must Be Conserved for Welfare of Germany.

LONDON, July 24.—Emperor William during his recent trip to a point somewhere in the rear of Peronne, on the Somme front, says a despatch, to the wireless press from Berne, made a speech to the German wounded soldiers which is attracting great attention in Germany. The German Emperor is quoted as saying:

"It is the most poignant grief of my life that I am unable to take a more active part in this war. It is my earnest desire to take my place in the trenches and to deal such blows at our enemies as my age and strength would permit.

"I could take my place with the youngest of you and I promise that I would leave my mark on the enemy. But the inscrutable Almighty has willed otherwise. Into my care has been committed by divine destiny the leadership of our country, its armies and its forces on land and sea.

"The burden of thinking, deciding and leading has been hard upon me, and realizing this you know that my life must not be risked in the foremost line of battle where my feelings, if unrestrained, would carry me swiftly. "My life must be conserved carefully for the welfare of Germany in order to carry out the duties assigned to me by divine appointment."

MGR. DUNN KNEW CHARITY INQUIRY "WANTED" POTTER

But Insists Offer of \$100, Made on Phone, Was Bait for Police.

SOUGHT SPY ON WIRE.

Swears That Was Only Reason for Mentioning Sum to Other Man.

After counsel for the three clergymen accused of conspiracy, libel and perjury, along with Robert W. Hebbard, former Secretary of the State Charities Board, and Dr. Daniel C. Potter had waived the right not to put the accused men on the stand, the wire-tapping inquiry before Justice Greenbaum took a new and interesting turn to-day.

Mgr. Henry A. Brann, rector of St. Agnes's Church, emphatically denied conversations alleged to have been held over tapped wires with Dr. Potter.

Mgr. John J. Dunn, Chancellor of the Diocese of New York, was equally positive in his repudiation of phone conversations attributed to him, but admitted having a suspicion that Dr. Potter "was wanted."

"You are charged with conspiring on Feb. 16 with Robert W. Hebbard to thwart and obstruct justice in preventing the Strong charities investigation," said Alfred J. Talley of counsel for the defense.

"It is untrue," said Mgr. Dunn. "I met Mr. Hebbard once or perhaps twice at dinners four years ago—barely met and shook hands with him. On the second day of the Strong investigation—March 28—I met him; never again until four weeks ago, and then at this hearing."

Mr. Talley read a report by Detective John Kennel of a conversation which he swore that he overheard on March 24 last as follows:

"Outside: Hello, this is Monsignor talking. What is new? * * * Mgr. Dunn: Yes, after me. * * * Well, you see they are liable to get out a search warrant. If I leave the State they can't get anything. "Outside: Well, where do you want to go? "948: Outside of the State. You know you can't choose your place now. "Outside: Well, I will tell you what I'll do. I'll give you \$100. Can you send some one for it? "948: Yes. Leave it in an envelope."

NEVER GAVE DR. POTTER ANY MONEY, HE SWEARS. "Did you ever give Dr. Potter \$100?" asked Mr. Talley.

"Absolutely not," said Mgr. Dunn. "I never gave him \$100 or any other sum of money, or put any money for him in an envelope, or asked any one to give Dr. Potter money."

SIGNS OF SAILING ON DEUTSCHLAND; BREMEN AWAITED

Visit of U. S. Official to Submarine and Other Doings Indicate Departure.

BREMEN NOT CAPTURED

Official Denial That Second Undersea Liner Has Been Taken by British Ships.

LONDON, July 24.—Denial that British war vessels have captured the German submarine freighter Bremen, sister ship to the Deutschland, was given to-day by official authority to the United Press.

BALTIMORE, July 24.—The wireless instruments of the Deutschland were sealed by Federal officials this afternoon, under the neutrality laws. The representatives of the Customs Service seized the Federal seal to the submarine's wireless apparatus after making a thorough inspection of the wireless plant.

It is believed that the Deutschland is really at last getting ready to leave port. An officer of the United States Navy went aboard her to-day with R. Y. Cadmus, the local radio inspector when the latter went to the submarine to seal her wireless. No naval officer has visited the craft since Capt. C. F. Hughes made his inspection at the request of the State Department immediately after her arrival. To-day's visit is believed to have been to make sure that the Deutschland had not been converted into a fighting craft during her presence in Baltimore. Washington would want to be in a position to say to the allies positively that no such changes had been made. The masts of the ship were lowered and there were other signs that she was getting ready to go.

Asked to-day when the Deutschland would sail, Paul G. L. Hilken, member of the Eastern Forwarding Company, the boat's American agency, said she would start "just as soon as we can get ready, and that will not be much longer."

Whether clearance has actually been granted to the Deutschland is carefully guarded. If it has the vessel must head out for the Capes by night or re-clear.

Men connected with the Ocean Rhetical confessed to-day that they are in the dark as to the present whereabouts of the Bremen, sister ship of the subsea freighter Deutschland.

From a source regarded as most reliable it was ascertained to-day that the Eastern Forwarding Company has successfully closed its negotiations for a large consignment of gold to be taken back on the submersible. It was said the gold will be put aboard to-day and that the boat will then be ready to leave. No information as to the amount or from whom it was obtained except that it was through negotiations with "one of the largest American banking institutions," was available.

NORFOLK, Va., July 24.—Only one of the allied warships patrolling the Virginia Capes waiting for the German underwater liner Deutschland or her sister ship Bremen, was in sight early to-day, and she was cruising far out to sea.

German Crown Prince, in Airship, Flies Over the French Lines



Berlin Admires Courage of Heir to Throne, but Deplores Needless Risk.

AMSTERDAM, July 24.—The German Crown Prince made his debut last week as a military flyer, according to word reaching here from Berlin. For fifteen minutes the heir to the German throne risked his life in a German aeroplane over the French lines surrounding Verdun. While admitting this fresh proof of the Crown Prince's courage, considerable adverse comment was heard in Berlin, the Germans holding that as heir to the Emperor, Prince Frederick Wilhelm should not needlessly risk his life in such dangerous exhibitions of courage. It was pointed out that before the war the Kaiser had always prohibited his eldest son from assuming such risks.

BRITISH WARSHIPS IN HOT BATTLE WITH SIX DESTROYERS

Admiralty Declares the Enemy Vessels Were Hit Many Times.

LONDON, July 24.—Six German torpedo boat destroyers were engaged in a running fight with British light forces off Schouwen bank yesterday, says an official statement issued by the British Admiralty this afternoon. The German vessels were repeatedly hit but they succeeded in reaching the Belgian coast. Following is the text of the statement:

"At midnight of July 23 while near the North Hinder light vessel some of our light forces sighted three enemy destroyers, who retired before damage could be inflicted on them.

"Subsequently off Schouwen bank six enemy destroyers were engaged, during which the enemy was repeatedly hit, but he succeeded in reaching the Belgian coast. "One of our vessels was hit once and one officer and one man were slightly wounded. There was no other damage or casualty."

Two of the German destroyers, presumably those engaged in the fight, returned to Zeebrugge with a decided list, according to Exchange Telegraph dispatches from The Hague to-day.

The North Hinder lightship is located off the Belgian coast, between Ostend and the mouth of the Scheldt River. Schouwen bank is in the same neighborhood. The action which the Admiralty describes, therefore, took place off the Belgian coast.

The German vessels engaged presumably came from Zeebrugge, where there is a German destroyer base. BERLIN, July 24.—"Our torpedo boats returned from a point close to the mouth of the Thames undamaged after Sunday's abort engagement," said an official statement issued here to-day.

The text of the statement follows: "In the night of July 22-23 German torpedo boats starting from Flanders undertook a raid extending until they were close to the mouth of the Thames without sighting hostile naval forces there. While returning they encountered several small British destroyers of the Aurora class and destroyed. A short artillery engagement followed, in the course of which we obtained lucky hits. Our torpedo boats returned to their base undamaged."

DUTCH SHIP HITS MINE.

Ten Members of the Maas's Crew Are Drowned. THE HAGUE, Netherlands, July 24 (via London).—The Dutch steamship Maas has been sunk near the North Hinder Light as the result of striking a mine. Ten members of the vessel's crew were drowned.

FRENCH AVIATOR FLIES OVER BERLIN, DROPPING "BOMBS"

Makes 1,000 Miles to German Capital, but Is Captured Later.

PARIS, July 24.—Lieut. Marchal of the French Aviation Corps last month left French soil and flew over the German capital, upon which he dropped proclamations, and then continued his flight, intending to land within the Russian lines. He was forced to descend, however, in Poland and was taken prisoner by the Germans.

The proclamations dropped on Berlin stated that though it was possible the aviator refrained from bombarding the open town and "thus kill the women and innocent children."

Lieut. Marchal made a continuous flight, most of it in darkness. He flew 1,000 miles, starting from Nancy. Marchal was interned at Salsberch, whence he forwarded a postal card giving these details. "It was the failure of the spark plugs which stopped me. I descended to change two of them and was taken prisoner."

\$2,191,500,000 LOAN ASKED BY ASQUITH

Largest Single Credit Called for Since War Began—Brings Total to \$14,160,000,000.

LONDON, July 24.—Premier Asquith in Commons to-day moved for a vote of credit on 2,191,500,000 pounds, or \$2,191,500,000, the largest sum which the Government has asked for in a single bill since the beginning of the war. The measure, characterized as "a supplementary estimate," will bring the total asked this year up to 1,650,000,000 pounds, and the total since the beginning of the war to 2,332,000,000 pounds, or about \$14,160,000,000.

LOYD GEORGE SURE ALLIED ARMIES WILL WIN

Tells the House of Commons British Generals Are More Than Satisfied.

LONDON, July 24.—"The prospects of battle are good. British generals are more than satisfied—they are confident that victory is assured," declared Minister of War Lloyd George in the House of Commons this evening.

PART OF HINDENBURG'S ARMY DRIVEN BACK TWELVE MILES, SAYS PETROGRAD REPORT

Berlin Asserts That the British Failed to Gain a Firm Foothold at Pozieres, but Haig Reports Further Advances in To-Day's Fighting.

VICTORY AT LONGUEVAL IS CLAIMED BY BERLIN

A further gain on the Somme front, which put the British in possession of a greater part of the Village of Pozieres on the third line of the German defenses, was reported to-day by Gen. Haig. In last night's report it was stated that the outer works of this village had been captured. Berlin, in its report, makes no mention of the fighting which took place to-day. The War Office says the British failed to gain a decisive foothold along the Pozieres sector in last night's attack. The Berlin War Office declares eleven British divisions, a total of 320,000 men, were engaged in yesterday's attack. Paris reports quiet on the Somme front, but mentions great activity by the air squadrons of both sides. Petrograd officially claims tremendous advances along the whole eastern front, while a Reuter despatch says von Hindenburg's troops were forced to fall back twelve miles on part of the Riga line. Berlin despatches this afternoon say the efforts of the Russians to advance near the Galician border have failed. Rome claims gains in the Astico region, having captured defenses just below the summit of Monte Cimont.

NO DECISIVE FOOTHOLD GAINED BY BRITISH, SAYS BERLIN REPORT

Penetrated a Few Houses at Pozieres, but at Heavy Cost in Dead and Wounded, Declares War Office. BERLIN, July 24.—British troops failed to obtain any decisive foothold in their offensive along the Pozieres sector, the War Office statement declared to-day. "The only advantage the British obtained yesterday and last night along the line from Thiepval to Guillemont

KAISER HAS MOVED TO EASTERN FRONT

Leaves Western Theatre of War, Accompanied Chief of Staff in the Field.

BERLIN (via London), July 24.—Emperor William, it was officially announced to-day, has moved from the western to the eastern theatre of the war. He was accompanied by the Chief of the General Staff of the army in the field. SENATORS FAVOR CLARKE. Committee Recommends His Confirmation as Justice. WASHINGTON, July 24.—The Senate Judiciary Committee, by unanimous vote, to-day recommended confirmation of the nomination of John H. Clarke of Cleveland, O., as Assistant Justice of the Supreme Court to succeed former Justice Hughes.

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